

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-02 INR-07 CIAE-00

SAM-01 PM-03 DODE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:WPKELLY:MS

APPROVED BY EUR/IB - ALAN W. LUKENS

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P R 201830Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

SECRET STATE 117449

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AZORES SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

REFS: A. PONTA DELGADA 138

B. PONTA DELGADA 134

1. WHILE WE ARE INTERESTED IN WHATEVER INFORMATION YOU
MAY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ABOUT THE AZOREAN SEPARATISTS
(PLANS, ACTIVITIES, FINANCING, SIZE OF ORGANIZATION, BASES
OF SUPPORT, ETC.), OUR POLICY REGARDING THIS GROUP
CONTINUES TO BE THAT OF STRICT NEUTRALITY.

2. CONTACTS BETWEEN USG OFFICERS AND AZOREAN SEPARATISTS
COULD BE MADE IN WASHINGTON OR EVEN LISBON WITHOUT
ATTRACTING UNDUE ATTENTION. SIMILAR CONTACTS IN THE
INCESTUOUS ENVIRONMENT OF PONTA DELGADA, HOWEVER, ARE
LIKELY TO COME TO IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND COULD RAISE SUSPICION THAT U.S. IS
SOMEHOW SUPPORTING SEPARATISTS.

3. FOR THIS REASON, WE BELIEVE THAT -- TO THE EXTENT

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POSSIBLE -- YOU TRY TO AVOID FURTHER DIRECT CONTACT

WITH THE AZOREAN SEPARATISTS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT TOTAL
INSULATION FROM THEM IS IMPRACTICAL BUT SUGGEST THAT,

AT A MINIMUM, YOU CONTINUE TO REFUSE REQUESTS FOR
APPOINTMENTS AT THE CONSULATE AND REFUSE TO RECEIVE
THE SEPARATISTS AT YOUR HOME. CHANCE SOCIAL ENCOUNTERS
OR UNANNOUNCED VISITS AT HOME OR OFFICE POSE SPECIAL
PROBLEMS WHICH, WITHIN THE POLICY GUIDELINE OF STRICT
NEUTRALITY, WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION.

4. PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR EXCELLENT REPORTING OF CONTACTS
AND ATTEMPTED CONTACTS WITH THE AZOREAN SEPARATISTS,
INCLUDING ANY SIGNS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSPICION THAT
USG LENDING SUPPORT TO THE SEPARATISTS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AZORES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE117449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPKELLY:MS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750177-0023
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750534/aaaabfab.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PONTA DELGADA 138
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AZORES SEPARATIST MOVEMENT
TAGS: PINT, PO, US
To: PONTA DELGADA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006